

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Welfare & Institutions Code section 11323.3 was amended by Stats. 2019, ch. 414, Section 4 (A.B. 121) effective October 2, 2019.

Existing law required an applicant for, or a recipient of, CalWORKs benefits to be provided written notice, both at the time of application and when they sign an original or amended welfare-to-work plan, informing them of, among other things, the availability of paid childcare to allow them to be employed or participate in welfare-to-work activities and of assistance in finding and choosing a childcare provider. Existing law, commencing January 1, 2021, or the date that automation changes occur in the Statewide Automated Welfare System, whichever date is later, requires the notice to additionally inform applicants and recipients of the name and contact information for the local childcare resource and referral program, and requires the notice to be provided at additional times, including at the time of orientation and when the recipient is assigned to a program activity.

AB 121 makes the requirement that the notice inform applicants and recipients of the name and contact information for the local childcare resource and referral program to be effective immediately, and would, at the above-described later date, also require the notice to be provided when the recipient reports new or increased participation in a program activity. AB 121 requires the California Department of Social Services to work with counties and other stakeholders to modify applicable CalWORKs notices and forms about childcare to include that new information required to be in the notice and to make the modified notices and forms available at times in addition to the time of application and when an original or amended welfare-to-work plan is signed, such as at the time of orientation, when and where possible and appropriate. AB 121 authorizes the department to implement these provisions by all-county letter or similar directive until regulations are adopted.

There have been no other changes in applicable laws or to the effect of the proposed regulations from the laws and effects described in the Notice of Proposed Action.